

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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R 181515Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8632

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AFDROUGHT

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SUBJ: CILSS MEETING, MARCH 15-16

1. SUMMARY: CILSS-DONORS MEETING HELD BAMAKO MARCH 15-16. IN ADDITION TO DELEGATIONS FROM THE SEVEN MEMBER STATES, CONFERENCE ALSO ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BILATERAL DONOR COUNTRIES, UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, FED, IBRD AND VARIOUS AFRICAN AND AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. CILSS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ANTOINE DAKOURE MADE PLEA FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO SAHELIAN STATES THROUGH CILSS CHANNEL, ASKING AT SAME TIME THAT DONORS FRAME THEIR PROGRAMS IN LINE WITH PROJECT LIST ADOPTED AT OUAGADOUGOU LAST SEPT AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMPLIFIED BY UN (STEINER) TASK FORCE.

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DONOR SPOKESMEN ALL MADE MORE OR LESS SPECIFIC COM-

MITMENTS TO WORK TO SOME DEGREE THROUGH CILSS AND TO BE GUIDED BY CILSS PROJECT LIST. MAJORITY OF DONOR REPS, HOWEVER, STRESSED NEED TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES WITHIN CILSS LIST AND CALLED FOR ADOPTION OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR ZONE TO ENSURE HARMONIZATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROJECTS. ALL PARTIES AGREED ON NEED FOR CONTINUED CLOSE COORDINATION OF EFFORT THROUGH CILSS MECHANISM, THOUGH CERTAIN DONORS ALSO STRESSED NEED TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH INDIVIDUAL GOVTS ON CERTAIN NATIONAL PROJECTS IN ORDER SAVE TIME.

2. MEETING WAS WELL ORCHESTRATED BY DAKOURE IN TERMS OF GETTING AFRICAN OFFICIALS AND MOST DONORS TO MAKE STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CILSS CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE. ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRAMMING WERE RELATIVELY SMOOTH AND DONOR REPS BY AND LARGE SAID WHAT DAKOURE WANTED TO HEAR. BELIEVE CILSS IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY MEETING, AND POSITION OF DAKOURE REINFORCED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER CILSS CAN CARRY OUT PROJECT COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES IT HAS CLAIMED AND WHETHER MEMBER STATES AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL, IN PRACTICE, BE WILLING GIVE OVER TO CILSS SIGNIFICANT PART OF THEIR TRADITIONALLY BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH DONOR STATES AND AGENCIES. END SYMMARY

3. MEETING WAS OPENED BY MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE, WHO MADE SHARP REFUTATION OF ASSERTIONS BY "INTERNATIONAL DETRACTORS" THAT SAHELIAN STATES LA DONORS HAD BEEN IDLE OR NEGLIGENT IN FACT OF LAST YEAR'S CRISIS. HE CALLED CHARGES OF GENOCIDE AGAINST NOMADS "CRIMINAL LIES". AFTER NOTING IMMENSITY OF TASK AHEAD, TRAORE ENDED ON OPTIMISTIC NOTE, SAYING THAT OTHER DESERTS HAD BEEN DEFEATED AND SO WOULD THE SAHARA.

4. SPEAKING NEXT, CILSS CHAIRMAN ANTOINE DAKOURE DECLARED FOUR PRINCIPAL CILSS PRIORITIES TO BE (A) WATER MANAGEMENT; (B) RECONSTITUTION OF HERDS; (C) ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS TO RETARD DESERTIFICATION; AND (C) ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS. SAID THESE PRIORITIES APPLY TO BOTH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS. WHILE ADMITTING DEGREE OF PREPARATION OF PROJECTS ON UN COMPENDIUM WAS UNEVEN, DAKOURE URGED DONOR COMMITMENT TO COMPENDIUM AND ASKED THAT IMPLEMENTATION NOT BE DELAYED BY EXHAUSTIVE STUDIES.

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5. DAKOURE FURTHER APPEALED TO DONORS TO DO NOTHING IN THEIR BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH THE SAHELIAN GOVTS TO UNDERMINE CILSS COORDINATING EFFORT. HE INSISTED THAT DONORS RESPECT CILSS PRIORITIES,

WHICH REFLECT AFRICAN PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, AND TO CUT PROJECT APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION RED TAPE TO MINIMUM. DAKOURE CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON FEASIBILITY CRITERIA

AND RELAXATION OF TOO RIGID REQUIREMENTS IN LIGHT OF DESPERATE
CONDITIONS EXISTING IN SAHEL.

6. DAKOURE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION THAT DONORS UNABLE GIVE
FIRM FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OVER LONGER TIME FRAME, AT LEAST
4-5 YEARS, I HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED LIMITING EFFECT OF NORMAL BUDGETARY
PROCEEDURES BUT URGED THAT WAYS BE FOUND TO OVERCOME THEM.

7. DAKOURE ANNOUNCED THAT PERMANENT CILSS STRUCTURES WERE BEING
ESTABLISHED WITH BUREAUS FOR (A) ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS;
(B) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS; (C) FOREIGN AND PUBLIC RELATIONS; AND
(C) DOCUMENTATION (WHICH WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL DONORS.) HE DID NOT
INDICATE TIME FRAME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY.

8. DAKOURE SAID QUESTION HAD BEEN POSED BY DONORS AS TO HOW CILSS
PROPOSED TO FACILITATE AN COORDINATE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL
PROJECTS. HE ANSWERED: NATIONAL PROJECTS: CILSS WILL HELP
NATIONAL GOVTS PROGRAM DONOR RESOURCE
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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
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ICUESDR/AMEMBASSY BANJUL 51
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AFDROUGHT

13. ECA (EL TOM): WAS MORE CATHOLIC THAN POPE IN DENOUNCING DONORS BYPASSING CILSS TO DEAL BILATERALLY WITH INDIVIDUAL GOVTS. HE EXPRESSED HOPES FOR UTILITY OF MIT STUDY. PROPOSED CILSS ADOPT AS MOTO "UNITY IN ACTION."

14. CANADA (DAVID HILTON): PLEDGED EFFORT TO SPEED UP AND EXPAND CANADA'S SAHELIAN ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED CANADA GIVING CILSS ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET SUPPORT. HILTON STRESSED UTILITY EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROPOSED GIVING THEM ACTION ON REGIONAL PROJECTS WITH CILSS COORDINATING.

15. UNDP (DOO KINGUE): ANNOUNCED THAT UNDP IS DOING STUDY OF MEDIUM AND LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES WHICH WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PRESENTED IN 1975. SAID UNDP ONGOING PROGRAM NOW BEING REVIEWED TO ENSURE ITS COMPATIBILITY WITH CILSS PROGRAM. LIKE HILTON, DOO KINGUE EMPHASIZED CONTINUED ROLE OF EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS CORE ELEMENTS FOR SAHELIAN DEVELOPMENT, BUT HE PROMISED UNDP WILL UNDERTAKE NO REGIONAL ACTIVITY IN SAHEL WITHOUT CILSS CONCURRENCE. HE SAID UNDP WOULD PROVIDE CILSS WITH INSTITUTIONAL ASSISTANCE.

16. USA (BROWN): AMERICAN DELEGATION INDICATED WHAT US HAD DONE SO FAR WITH RESPECT EMERGENCY AID AND R & R. ALSO NOTED PENDING \$50 MILLION AUTHORIZATION AND WHERE WE STAND WITH RESPECT PROGRAMMING OF THIS AMOUNT. IN THIS CONNECTION US REP PROMISED THAT POTENTIAL MEDIUM TERM PROGRAM TO BE WORKED OUT IN NEXT WEEK'S AID/W SEMINAR WOULD BE SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED WITH CILSS. RESPONDING TO MAJOR POINTS

ADVANCED BY DAKOURE, US REP STATED BE FELT THESE PRINCIPLES WERE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO MOST DONORS BUT NEEDED TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION. IT IS WELL TO AGREE THAT OUAGADOUGOU PROJECT LIST IS CENTER OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES, BUT THERE IS NEED NOW TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES AND A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR CARRYING OUT PROGRAM. AGREEING THAT PROGRAMS NEEDED TO BE BASED ON AFRICAN PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR NEEDS, THERE STILL MUST BE MECHANISMS FOR AFRICANS AND NON-AFRICANS TO TURN THESE PERCEPTIONS INTO REAL PROJECTS WHILE IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO ESTABLISH NEW CRITERIA FOR JUSTIFYING PROJECTS, AN EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO DETERMINE WHAT THESE CRITERIA WOULD BE AND HOW THEY COULD FIT BOTH AFRICAN AND DONOR CONCERNS. US REP ENDED BY INDICATING THAT WHILE US HAD NO SPECIFIC ANSWERS ON HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, WE WERE READY TO WORK WITH OTHERS IN TRYING TO DO SO.

17. ADB (EL GHALI): SAID IT LACKED UNDERSTANDING OF MECHANISMS FOR COORDINATION AND HOW THEY WORKED. WHAT ACTUALLY DID CILSS DO TO COORDINATE? EL GHALI ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ACTUAL STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ESTABLISH CILSS INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES ANNOUNCED BY DAKOURE. (NOTE: NO ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WERE EVER

FORTHCOMING.)

18. IBRD: REVIEWED IBRD \$14 MILLION SAHELIAN CREDIT FUND AND TSETSE ERADICATION PROJECT. HE SAID BANK PROJECTS IN REGION OVER PAST FIVE YEARS HAD AVERAGED \$60-\$70 MILLION ANNUALLY, AND HE FORESAW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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NO DECLINE. HE DID NOTE TWO POSSIBLE CONSTRAINTS: UNCERTAINTY OF IDA REPLENISHMENT, AND CAPACITY OF SAHELIAN STATES TO ABSORB LARGE SUMS OVER SHORT PERIOD.

19. (UN (MORSE): STRESSED PARAMOUNT ROLE OF CILSS AND URGED THAT DONORS RESPOND TO NEEDS OF SAHELIAN COUNTRIES AS ARTICULATED BY CILSS. MORSE THEN READ LONG DOCUMENT GIVING UN ANALYSIS OF SAHELIAN SITUATION AND REMEDIAL ACTION NEEDED.

20. FRANCE (GIRI): REITERATED FRENCH COMMITMENT TO SAHEL RECOVERY MADE AT OUAGADOUGOU CILSS CONFERENCE. HE SAID FRANCE HAD SENT MISSIONS IN 1973 AND 1974 TO LOOK INTO SHORT TERM PROJECTS INCLUDED ON OUAGADOUGOU LIST. GIRI DWELT ON IMPORTANCE FRENCH REGULAR AID PROGRAM BUT PROMISED FURTHER SPECIAL FUNDS FOR SAHEL WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AS PROJECTS WERE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE TO PRIORITIES SET BY SAHELIAN GOVTS. GIRI DIDN'T MENTION CILSS BY NAME UNTIL END OF HIS REMARKS WHEN HE SAID SPECIFIC INITIATIVES MUST COME FROM CILSS AND FRANCE WILL RESPOND.

21. A NUMBER OF OTHER BILATERAL DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE IN COOPERATION WITH CILSS.

22. IN SUMMING UP, DAKOURE SAID CILSS REGRETTE THAT CONFERENCE OUTCOME COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED 100 PERCENT SUCCESSFUL (DONORS DIDN'T MAKE THE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS TO BE COMPENDIUM PROJECTS AND DID NOT FIX AMOUNTS OF THEIR ASSISTANCE AS HE HAD WISHED), BUT HE CONSIDERED RESULTS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY. FIRST GOAL OF CILSS--AND THAT WAS REACHED---WAS TO KEEP SAHEL IN
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